

Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

EB-03 STRE-00 EA-06 SSO-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 L-01 H-01

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DRAFTED BY STR:WPARTRIDGE:RCF

APPROVED BY STR:FBDENT

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O 172243Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231141

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE U.S. REACTION TO INCREASED MUSHROOM
IMPORTS

1. RECENT FIGURES INDICATING EXTREMELY LARGE INCREASES IN
IMPORTS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS INTO U.S. HAS RAISED ISSUE TO
HIGH LEVEL OF CONCERN. POSSIBLE U.S. REACTION CONTEMPLATED
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, ON SEPTEMBER 17, STR AMBASSADOR DENT
MET WITH AMBASSADOR HAHM OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND AMBASSA-
DOR SHEN OF REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO DISCUSS SITUATION.

2. ON MARCH 17, 1976, THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
(USITC) FOUND INJURY OR THREAT OF INJURY TO DOMESTIC MUSH-
ROOM INDUSTRY FROM IMPORTS AND RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENT
ASSISTANCE. ON MAY 17, 1976, THE PRESIDENT ACCEPTED THIS
RECOMMENDATION. UNDER TRADE ACT HE MUST ACCEPT RECOMMEND-
ATION FOR ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.

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3. SINCE THAT TIME, IMPORTS HAVE FLOODED U.S. MARKET AT RATES DOUBLING AND NOW POSSIBLY QUADRULING HISTORICAL MONTHLY RATES. IF PRESENT TREND CONTINUES, IMPORTS WILL APPROACH ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF U.S. CURRENT CANNED MUSHROOM CONSUMPTION VICE ABOUT FORTY PERCENT IN RECENT YEARS. IMPORT FIGURES ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW (1000 POUNDS).

1975 JAN-MAY	23,323	14,617	6,197
1976 JAN-MAY	21,743	12,491	7,749
1975 JUN	4,709	2,906	1,449
1976 JUN	10,391	6,046	3,916
1975 JUL	6,025	3,262	2,401
1976 JUL	11,939	7,308	4,257
1975 AUG	5,053		
1976 AUG	19,000	ESTIMATE	

AMBASSADOR DENT ADVISED BOTH AMBASSADORS THAT IN VIEW OF APPARENT FLOODING OF U.S. MARKET FOLLOWING USITC DECISION NOT TO IMPOSE QUOTAS OR TARIFFS, TWO POSSIBLE U.S. ACTIONS ARE CONTEMPLATED.

A. FIRST, DEPUTY STR AMBASSADOR YEUTTER MAY WISH TO VISIT TAIPEI AND SEOUL AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK OR EARLY IN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26 TO CONSULT ON THIS PROBLEM.

B. SECOND, U.S. LAW ALLOWS PRESIDENT, STR, OR CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES TO REQUEST ITC TO REOPEN MUSHROOM INVESTIGATION TO SEEK NEW FINDING OF INJURY AND RELIEF. SUCH A REQUEST IS POSSIBLE IN LIGHT OF NEW INFORMATION ON HIGH LEVEL OF IMPORTS SINCE ITC FINDING LAST SPRING. ROBINSON

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